

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PM-07 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /165 W

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R 210314Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1705

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO CRITICS

1. ADDRESSING A JOINT MEETING OF MAJOR BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS DEC 19, PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH STUDENTS AND OTHERS RECENTLY HAD DEMANDED GOVERNMENT STOP ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON JAPAN, KOREA HAD IN FACT NEVER ACCEPTED "HUMILIATING AID" FROM JAPAN. RATHER, HE SAID, ROK AND JAPAN HAVE HAD MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ROK IS REPAYING LOANS FROM JAPAN ON SCHEDULE. HE SAID FOREIGN BORROWING REMAINS ESSENTIAL FOR KOREA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. IN THE SAME SPEECH, PRIME MINISTER ATTACKED GOVERNMENT'S CRITICS FOR IRRESPONSIBLY IGNORING IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF ATTAINING THE HIGHEST ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE IN ASIA AND SLANDERING
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PRESIDENT PARK. HE ADDED THAT STATEMENTS AND

ACTIONS CONDUCTIVE TO SOCIAL INSTABILITY WILL NOT BE
PERMITTED AND STATEMENTS CHALLENGING
REVITALIZATION SYSTEM WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN.

3. IN RESPONSE, OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY
SPOKESMAN ASKED PRIME MINISTER BY WHAT LEGAL AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO FORBID OPEN DISCUSSION OF
REVITALIZATION SYSTEM. HE ALSO ASKED GOVERNMENT
TO DEFINE THE LIMITS OF FREE SPEECH AND PRESS
FREEDOM. SPLINTER DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY
CHALLENGED THE GOVERNMENT TO A DEBATE.

4. REVITALIZATION GROUP (RG) AT DECEMBER 20 CAUCUS
ADDED ITS VOICE, RESOLVING TO "COUNTER BODLY" ANY
CHALLENGES TO PRESIDENT PARK'S POSITION
OR GOAL OF REVITALIZATION. MEETING ALSO ANNOUNCED
RG'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM
SERIOUSLY. RG CAUCUS FOLLOWED BLUE HOUSE RECEPTION
DECEMBER 19 AT WHICH PRESIDENT PARK TALKED TO
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY AND RG NATIONAL
ASSEMBLYMEN. ON THAT OCCASION PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY
SAID DEMANDS TO CHANGE YUSHIN SYSTEM WERE
"IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNACCEPTABLE".
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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